

NOW IN THE PRESS.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY.

For 1879.

This Work, the Only one of the kind in China

or Japan, is now in the

SEVENTEENTH YEAR

of its existence, and will be published as soon as

practicable after the close of the current year.

It has been compiled from the most accurate

Sources, and no pains have been spared to

render it THOROUGHLY RELIABLE, both as a

Directory and as a Work of Reference on Com-

mercial Matters.

The contents of the Appendix have been care-

fully revised and classified. Numerous additions

have also been made, tending to render the Work

still more valuable for reference. Descriptions

of each Port are given, embracing such valuable

information as the following:

Two Porters—Complete at \$5; or with the Lists

of Residents, Port Directors, Maps of Hong-

kong, and Coles of Signals, at \$3.

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Daily Press Office, where it is published, or to

the following Agents:

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Daily Press Office, 13th December, 1878.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.

FAMILY AND DISPENSING

CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Go-

VERNOR and his Royal Highness the

DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,

PERFUMERS,

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,

DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIERS,

And

AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,

PASSENGER SUPPLIES.

Notice.—To avoid delay in the execution of

Orders it is particularly requested that all

business communications be addressed to the

Firm of A. S. Watson and Co.

at HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [17

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be

addressed to "The Editor," and those on business

to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

All letters for publication should be written on

one side of the paper.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names

and address with communications addressed to the

Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good

faith.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 31st, 1878.

This fire has now happily been subdued, and

there is no danger of it breaking out again

in any of the ruins, or at least of its spread-

ing. This fact, however, should not cause

any relaxation in the vigilance of the Author-

ities or in the precautions taken by private

residents. The fire broke out at night when

the whole British and foreign community were

completely given up to festivities, and they

were consequently entirely unprepared for

the catastrophe. Another anniversary is at

hand which will be celebrated in similar

manner, and it is to be hoped that none of

the social gatherings may be suddenly broken

up like those of Christmas night. Fore-

warned is forewarned, and though the con-

tingency of a repetition of the calamity of

the 25th instant is no unpleasant one to

speculate upon, and somewhat calculated to

may the pleasure usually anticipated on

such occasions, it will be wiser not to

ignore it. The utmost vigilance should

be exercised both to-day, and to-morrow,

and arrangements made to stop any fire

in an early stage if one should unfortunately

be kindled. The lesson taught has been a

severe one, and we trust the Colony will

profit by its costly experience. While we do

not wish to take a pessimistic view of matters,

it is idle to deny that during the New Year

festivities there is special need for everyone

to be on his alert in case evil-disposed per-

sons should regard this time as their oppor-

tunity.

Our contemporary the Japan Mail has been

taking the Japanese to task for their super-

stition. The Japanese Government has for

some time been endeavouring to promote the

manufacture of black tea in order to compete

with the Chinese trade. It appears that their

endeavours of agriculture have been learning

this art for some time, and it is announced

that the Agricultural Bureau will shortly give

the students who are advanced in this study

certificates that their studies are completed.

Thereupon the Japan Mail says:—There

could not possibly be given a better proof

of the thoroughness and want of thoroughness

in the Japanese character than this announce-

ment. Here is an article which has taken the

Chinese hundreds of years to bring to per-

fection, which—proving by the Chinese tradi-

tions and experience,—our tea planters in

India have only lately acquired after a score

of years' study and heavy losses on their first

ventures. Yet here we have a Government

giving certificates of competency in a difficult

art, to men who can only have been working

at it, at the most, for about two years—and

the product of whose labour has turned out

a complete failure, selling on the London

market at 25 per cent. discount from its cost

price. We could then be very easily misled

by the Japanese, but the Japanese Govern-

THE GREAT FIRE.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

Monday, 30th December.

The fire is still on, and water is being

poured on several small fires, which are

being extinguished. The Government has

ordered that all the shops and houses in the

vicinity of the fire should be closed for a day or

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